

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4985

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3014

1. SUMMARY: ENIGMATIC STATEMENTS BY FORMER PRESIDENT CRUZ REGARDING EFFORTS BY UNNAMED CA PRESIDENT TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT OF HONDURAS-SALVADOR DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY HONDURAN MEDIA, AND ANTI-SALVADOR CRONISTA CARRIES VITRIOLIC ARTICLE POINTING ACCUSING FINGER AT PRESIDENT FIGGUERES OF COSTA RICA.

(COMMENT: IT APPEARS SOME WORD ON EARLIER AND "SECRET" CR PEACE INITIATIVES IS BEGINNING TO LEAK OUT.)

2. SEVERAL LOCAL DAILIES ARE CITING INTERVIEW GIVEN RECENTLY BY FORMER PRESIDENT RAMON E. CRUZ TO NEW NATIONALIST PARTY WEEKLY BULLETIN "ACCION NACIONALISTA" (COPY OF WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED). ACCORDING TO REPORTS, ESPECIALLY SENSATIONALIZED COVERAGE TODAY BY TEGUCIGALPA'S EL CRONISTA, CRUZ WAS ASKED WHETHER HE HAD EVER RECEIVED DURING HIS PRESIDENCY ANY "DISHONERABLE PROPOSAL" THAT HONDURAS CHANGE ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE BORDER PROBLEM, AND CRUZ REPLIED: THERE EXISTS A PROPOSAL IN THAT RESPECT MADE BY A CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENT. IF THAT GENTLEMEN WERE TO BE NAMED A MEDIATOR IN THE MATTER WITH EL SALVADOR, I WOULD PUBLISH HIS LETTER SO THAT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE WOULD REALIZE WHAT THE REAL POSITION IS OF THOSE WHOM WE CONSIDER OUR FRIENDS." CRUZ REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO NAME THE CA PRESIDENT

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REFERRED TO, SAYING ONLY "BY THEIR DEEDS YE SHALL KNOW THEM."

3. CRONISTA ACCOUNT GOES ON TO CLAIM THAT ITS OWN INVESTIGATIONS REVEAL FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PRESIDENT IN QUESTION WAS JOSE FIGUERES OF COSTA RICA, WHO BECAME ACTIVE IN FOMENTING CA HARMONY WHEN HE WAS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, "WHICH HE WANTED TO GET FOR HIMSELF ON THE BASIS OF...A SHAMEFUL, DEGRADING, TERRIBLE IGNOMINIOUS ACT THAT BRINGS INTO QUESTION THE SERIOUSNESS, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY AND DIGNITY OF THE ONE WHO CURRENTLY STEERS THE DESTINIES OF A SISTER COUNTRY. AS IF THE HONDURAN-SALVADORAN SITUATION COULD BE SOLVED BY A SIMPLE 'GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT' OR ON THE BASIS OF AN ONEROUS FINANCING (ONEROSO FINANCIMIENTO) WHICH WOULD BE NOTHING ELSE THAN A CRUEL AFFRONT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR PEOPLE. REALLY, JOSE FIGUERES FERRER HAS NOW SHOWN HIMSELF THE ANTITHESIS OF RECTITUDE, OF DECENCY, OF ALL THAT ENOBLES A MAN. IT MOVES US TO PITY TO THINK THAT THE COSTA RICAN PEOPLE HAVE HIM TO GOVERN THEM. HE SINCERELY DOESN'T DESERVE (THE OFFICE)."

4. INCANDESCENT PROSE ACCOMPANIED BY TOTAL ABSENCE OF FACTUAL EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE ALLEGED PROPOSALS WERE AND WHY THEY WERE DETRIMENTAL TO HONDURAS, IS TYPICAL CRONISTA "REPORTING"- ESPECIALLY ON ANY VARIATION OF THE SALVADOR ISSUE. CRONISTA'S JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS ASIDE, HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR SOME WORD IS LEAKING OUT ABOUT THE ABORTIVE "COMPADRE HABLADO" INITIATIVE. SANCHEZ

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